SP-L1 Land Use

October 25, 2002

1.0 Introduction/Background

This study will research, describe, and graphically display the types of land uses that exist, and/or are planned, for the lands within the Study Area. Understanding existing land uses and planned future uses is important for the proper management of the project; to gain an understanding of how land uses evolved and continue to evolve at and near the project; and to determine the compatibility and appropriateness of enhancement measures proposed by other work groups from a land use perspective.

Various entities such as Butte County, the City of Oroville and United States Forest Service (USFS) have compiled land use data for the lands they manage and these data will be accessed for this study. However, there are no known studies that comprehensively catalog or address land uses for the entire Study Area.

2.0 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study will be to:

- Determine and describe existing and planned land uses within and adjacent to the Study Area;
- Address land use issues identified by the Land Use Work Group; and
- Identify opportunities and constraints related to land use.

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for the Study

This study will be prepared to meet FERC's requirement to prepare a report on lands and to address land use issues that were identified by the Land Use Work Group. This report will identify existing and planned land uses within the Study Area. By doing so, it will be possible to determine how existing and planned land uses within the Study Area may potentially influence each other.

This study will address the following Issue Statements:

> LU1—concerns appropriate, compatible and potential developmental and non-developmental uses of project lands. The Issues addressed in LU1 related to land use include:
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> - LM E1—more areas for recreation;
> - LM E2—land access to far north of reservoir;
> - LM E3—increased communication related to DWR land use;
> - LM E7—possible preservation of lands for open/natural areas/greenbelts; and
> - LM E9—livestock grazing effects.

LU2—concerns the potential for acquiring or removing project lands. The Issues addressed in LU2 related to land use include:

- LU E4—status and potential of property at Lime Saddle Marina;
- LU E5—examine all PG&E lands adjacent to the project;
- LU E9—potential acquisition of federal lands within the Study Area; and
- LU E1—potential of selling state lands to private interests.

LM1—Involves identifying what the funding and staffing needs are and may be to adequately address land management issues.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus.

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

This study will consist of two main tasks: an existing conditions inventory and an analysis and evaluation of land use issues, which includes an opportunities and constraints analysis. Each task will necessitate several subtasks.

Task 1—Existing Conditions Inventory

Task 1A—Data Collection (Literature Review and Interviews)

This task will involve reviewing and cataloging land use data in order to describe existing and planned future land uses within the Study Area. Task 1A will include a literature review, which will examine existing technical literature such as land management plans, and popular literature such as guidebooks, websites and other informational pieces. In addition, agency land managers and planners will be interviewed along with private sector interests (if appropriate) to identify current and planned land uses. If necessary, field surveys will be conducted to determine land uses in areas where the current land use is unknown.

Task 1B—Mapping

During Task 1B, GIS layers will be obtained from sources such as the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Butte County, the USFS, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In addition to electronic data, land use information from sources such as reports and paper maps will be obtained, renewed, and added to the GIS land use database, if appropriate. Work groups, land management agencies, and other appropriate groups or individuals will review the maps at various times to ensure accuracy.

Task 2—Evaluation and Analysis of Data

Task 2 will involve analyzing and evaluating land use information obtained during Task 1, and will: address issues that were developed by the Land Use Work Group; address new issues that may be uncovered during the studies; and identify opportunities and constraints regarding Study Area land use.

Task 2A—Address Specific Land Use Issues Identified by the Land Use Work Group

Task 2A will address specific land use issues identified by the Land Use Work Group (appropriate, compatible and potential developmental and non-developmental uses of project lands, for example). After Task 1 is complete and existing and planned Study Area land uses are identified, the research team will contact other work groups and request that they identify sensitive lands along with potential developments or enhancements (for purposes such as wildlife or recreation enhancement). The team will then depict areas in the Study Area where: there might be conflicts in proposed land use; where there are no conflicts; and where there may be opportunities to collaborate. The latter effort will provide an opportunity to evaluate appropriate, compatible developmental and non-developmental uses of Study Area lands, and will contribute to the opportunity and constraint analysis which will be conducted as part of Task 2C (see below).

Task 2B—Address New Issues That May be Uncovered During the Studies

There is a chance that new issues related to land use will be uncovered by the Land Use Work Group or other work groups while studies are being conducted. If this occurs, the consultant will contact all of the people in the Land Use Work Group via e-mail to identify the new issue, explain how he/she will address it, and if appropriate, set up a conference call or meeting to discuss it. The degree to which the work group would need to get involved will depend upon the complexity of the issue. At a minimum, the work group will always be informed if new issues arise.

Task 2C—Opportunity and Constraints Analysis

After identifying the range of land uses that occur within the Study Area, and after addressing the issues identified by the Land Use Work Group and others, an opportunity and constraints analysis will be performed. Task 2C will begin by summarizing all of the issues that have been identified by the various work groups that could have an impact on land use. All potential conflicts related to land uses (such as a proposed recreation site in an environmentally sensitive area) and potential areas for collaboration (such as an area that is environmentally sensitive and has cultural significance) will be identified. Finally, based on the opportunity and constraint analysis, policies and actions for future land use at the project will be recommended.

6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

Results

Information gained during this study will be used to describe existing and proposed land uses within the Study Area. This information will permit people involved in the relicensing process to have geographic (maps) and quantitative data (acres, lineal miles) related to land use, which will be useful for making management decisions.

Products/Deliverables

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Land Use Report
- Resource Database

The report will include the information gathered, synthesized, and analyzed for Task 1. Land uses within the Study Area will be quantified (acres and linear miles) by land use type and displayed graphically (with GIS-based maps and photographs). The GIS-based maps will display current land use, current land use designations by the agencies managing lands in within the Study Area and land use opportunities and constraints. The GIS database will also be able to calculate quantitative information such as acreage and lineal feet. This will be used to characterize data such as miles of shoreline of a particular land use type, acres of land zoned a particular way but not yet developed, and density of existing and future development. General land use patterns that exist or that will likely occur in the future within the Study Area will be qualitatively described.

The following types of data are frequently used for FERC license applications and will be available as a result of Land Use Study 1.

- Land use types (e.g., agricultural, conservation, recreation, operations);
- Acres and lineal miles of land use types by variables such as: shoreline; adjacent lands; ownership; ownership type (e.g. state, federal, private); lands within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the project; and
- Maps displaying information such as land use types and proposed land uses.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

Prior to starting this study, the research team will meet with other work groups to determine where and when relevant data can be gathered and shared with other groups. This study will likely be coordinated with the Engineering and Operations; Environmental; Cultural Resources; and Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Groups. Much of data collection that will be done for this study will occur simultaneously, and in conjunction with Study #2—Land Management and Study #3—Land Use Comprehensive Plan Consistency Evaluation.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Regulatory Compliance Requirements

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LM1—involves identifying what the funding and staffing needs are and may be to adequately address land management issues.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: March through October 2002.
Data analysis and report writing: October 2002 through October 2003.
Interim Land Use Report due: October 2003.
Final Land Use Report due: January 2004.

9.0 References

At this time, the following resources will be examined as part of this study. During the course of the study, other sources will be reviewed and added to this list.

BLM. 1993. Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. Redding, CA.

Butte County. 1996. Butte County General Plan. Oroville, CA.

City of Oroville. 1995. City of Oroville General Plan. Oroville, CA.

DFG (California Department of Fish and Game). 1978. Oroville Wildlife Management Area Management Plan. Sacramento, CA.

DPR (California Department of Parks and Recreation). 1973. Lake Oroville Recreation Area Development Plan. Sacramento, CA.

DWR (California Department of Water Resources). 1993. Recreation Plan for Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. Sacramento, CA.

USFS. 1988. Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LMRP). Plumas National Forest. Quincy, CA.